

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

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R 141600Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3182

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: PMAC ANNOUNCEMENT RE ERITREA

REF: FBIS LONDON 132051Z FEB 75 (NOTAL)

1. ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF FEBRUARY 14 CARRIED PMAC STATEMENT (REPORTED MORE FULLY IN REFTEL) STRESSING INVIOABILITY OF ETHIOPIAN UNITY AND MAKING HARSH ATTACK ON OSMAN SALEH SABBE, THE "SO-CALLED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SO-CALLED ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT."

2. OSMAN CHARACTERIZED AS "FOREIGN PAID BANDIT" WHO IS INSTIGATING WAR ALONG RELIGIOUS AND TRIBAL LINES TO MAKE ERITREA HOME OF ONE RELIGIOUS GROUP. ARRICLE PIINTS OUT THAT OSMAN IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GRANDSON OF SULTAN IBRAHIM WHO, ACCORDING TO PAPER, SOLD ASSAB

FOR \$8,000 AND THAT OSMAN LIKE GRANDFATHER TRYING TO SELL ERITREA TO HIGHEST BIDDER. OSMAN, IS CHARACTERIZED AS MARRIED TO SISTER OF SYRIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S WIFE. HE IS CHARGED WITH LEADING LIFE OF LUXURY TOURING ARAB CAPITALS AND AS DESIRING TO PRESENT ERITREA AS WEDDING PRESENT TO HIS WIFE.

3. STATEMENT SAID FOREIGN NEWS MEDIA WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISTORTING AND EXAGGERATING RECENT EVENTS IN ERITREA AND URGED PRESS TO TELL TROUTH ABOUT CURRENT POPULAR MOVEMENT WHICH HAS PUT AN END TO FEUDALISM AND GIVEN ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE EQUALITY AND DIGNITY.

4. STATEMENT RIDICULED CLAIM BY ELF THAT IT IS FIGHTING FOR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE AND SAID THAT BANDITS ACTUALLY ROBBING DROUGHT VICTIMS OF WHAT LITTLE AID GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO PROVIDE SINCE INSURGENTS OBSTRUCTING GOVERNMENT DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORTS IN ERITREA.

5. STATEMENT ALLEGED THAT MANY BANDITS ATTEMPTED TO COMMIT ACTS OF VIOLENCE BECAUSE THEY WERE UNDER INFLUENCE OF HASHISH PROVIDED BY THEIR SPONSORS.

6. STATEMENT REITERATED PMAC'S DETERMINATION TO SEEK PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO PROBLEM AND POINTED OUT THAT THE BANDITS HAVE TURNED DOWN ALL EFFORTS BY GOVERNMENT AT PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. COMMENT: REVERSION TO HARDLINE STATEMENT AT THIS TIME MAY INDICATE PMAC'S FRUSTRATIONS OVER INABILITY TO SOLVE PROBLEM, (I.E. TO DEFEAT ELF) AND CONSITUTES CLEAR REMINDER TO VISITING OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST MOST OAU GOVTS IN DEFENDING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MEMBER STATES. THE PERSONAL ATTACK ON OSMAN SALEH SABBE IS EXPRESSED IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS OF THIS VERY TRADITIONAL SOCIETY; HE IS TOOL OF FOREIGN AGENTS PARTICULARLY ARAB MOSLEMS, A CORRUPTOR OF YOUTH, A TRAITOR TO COUNTRY AND RELATIVES MOTIVATED EXCLUSIVELY BY PRIVATE GAIN.
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